Manufacture of Luxury Coaches

1089. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the Hindustan Times dated 24th November, 1999 captioned Railway officials own palace on wheels and still cling on to Maharajah life styles;

(b) whether it is a fact that 90 luxury coaches would be manufactured by Kapurthala coach factory at a budgeted cost of Rs. 42.5 crores; and

(c) if so, whether this is against the proposed austerity steps ordered by the new Union Railway Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Digha-Tamluk Rail Project

1090. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present project cost of Digha-Tamluk rail project;

(b) the actual expenditure so far;

(c) the physical progress of the project in kilometers;

(d) the major milestones identified in the project-schedule for completion of the project; and

(e) the tentative schedule of completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The present anticipated cost is Rs. 248 crore.

(b) Rs. 42.50 crore till November, 1999.